

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 FEA-02 MC-02 DRC-01

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R 171733Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0469

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, LY, SO, UK

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT OF SOVIET MILITARY SALES TO
LIBYA

1. ARTICLE BY JOHN MILLER IN DAILY TELEGRAPH MAY 17
SAYS LIBYA IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ACCEPTED SOVIET OFFERS OF
AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, ARMS, AND SOVIET MILITARY
ADVISERS DURING PM JALLUD'S RECENT VISIT TO SOVIET UNION.
WHILE FCO OFFICIALS HAVE NOTHING THROUGH OFFICIAL
SOURCES ON THIS ASPECT, THEY TEND TO CREDIT THE REPORT
AS FITTING IN BOTH WITH LIBYA'S KNOWN DEFENSIVE REQUIRE-
MENTS AND LIBYAN DESIRE FOR RAPPROCHEMENT WITH SOVIETS
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INDICATED IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF VISIT REPORTED FROM

MOSCOW.

2. ARTICLE REVIEWS LIBYA'S ABRUPT CANCELLATION OF BRITISH AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM IMMEDIATELY AFTER LIBYAN REVOLUTION. IT SAYS SOVIETS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE OFFERED SAM MISSILE SYSTEM SIMILAR TO THAT SET UP BY THEM IN EGYPT AND SYRIA. REPORTS ALSO INDICATE SOVIETS ARE OFFERING ANTI-TANK MISSILES FOR LIBYAN ARMY AND EXPERT ADVISERS TO HELP INSTALL AND OPERATE SYSTEMS. IMMEDIATE GAIN FOR SOVIETS WOULD BE HARD CURRENCY PAYMENT OR OIL FOR ARMS. LONGER TERM EFFECT WOULD BE PARTIAL COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF INFLUENCE IN EGYPT AS WELL AS EFFECTIVE PROTECTION FOR OIL AGREEMENTS LIBYA IS CURRENTLY SIGNING WITH SEVERAL EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

3. FCO ANALYSTS BELIEVE IT VERY POSSIBLE THAT SUCH DEAL HAS TAKEN PLACE, GIVEN POOR TURN IN RELATIONS WITH EGYPT RECENTLY EXPERIENCED BOTH BY SOVIETS AND LIBYANS.

4. LATEST READING ON POSSIBLE JALLUD VISIT TO BRITAIN IS LIKELIHOOD OF LIBYAN DELEGATION COMING TO LONDON FIRST TO SEE WHAT CAN BE WORKED OUT BEFORE JALLUD ARRIVES. TIMING HAS SLIPPED TO LATE JUNE AT EARLIEST.

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